GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3056
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2006
HOSPITALITY GIVEN TO FOREIGN NGOS
Bhagora Shri Mahavir

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the hospitality being given to the members of the Voluntary Organisations from foreign countries;

(b) the number of Voluntary Organisation from India, particularly from Udaipur whose representatives enjoyed foreign hospitality during the last three years;

(c) whether this facility has been in accordance with the norms fixed for foreign exchange; and

(d) if not, the action taken in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA)

(a) & (b) Under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976 (FCRA), various Associations (including NGOs) in India are permitted to receive contribution from foreign sources for bona fide activities in cultural, economic, educational, social or religious fields after obtaining registration/prior permission under the said Act. The registration/prior permission is granted after due verification of activities and antecedents of office bearers of Associations. The State-wise and district-wise list of Associations registered or granted prior permission under the said Act are available on Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)'s website − http://mha.nic.in/fore.htm. The hospitality given to members of Voluntary Organisations from foreign countries is not regulated under this Act. According to the advice received from the Rajasthan government, the office bearers/representatives of voluntary organisations (NGOs) visiting foreign countries do not require recommendation/permission from the State Government. Even in case of the NGOs registered under the FCRA by MHA, the office bearers/representatives are not required to file information with the State government.

(c) & (d) Do not arise.